

DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 419 158

CE 076 455

TITLE Adults' Basic Skills. Benchmark Information on the Scale of Need in Different Areas of England.

INSTITUTION Basic Skills Agency, London (England).

PUB DATE 1997-00-00

NOTE 0p.

AVAILABLE FROM Basic Skills Agency, Admail 524, London WC1A 1BR, England, United Kingdom; phone: 0870-600-2400; fax: 0870-600-2401; <http://www.basic-skills.co.uk> (CD-ROM for IBM compatible PC: 46 pounds).

PUB TYPE Non-Print Media (100) -- Numerical/Quantitative Data (110)

EDRS PRICE Document Not Available from EDRS.

DESCRIPTORS Academic Achievement; *Adult Basic Education; *Adult Literacy; *Educational Needs; Foreign Countries; *Literacy Education; *Numeracy; Optical Data Disks; *Reading Achievement; School Districts; Skill Development; Tables (Data)

IDENTIFIERS *England

ABSTRACT

This CD-ROM, which may be used with the Windows 3.1 and Windows 95 operating systems, contains benchmark information on the scale of need for basic literacy and numeracy skill development in 317 district council authorities (DCAs) and unitary authorities (UAs) in England. The following items are included: technical report on the 17 surveys of more than 8,000 adults that were used as the basis for calculating the predictions for each ward within England's DCAs and UAs; table detailing low literacy levels by UA and DCA; table detailing very low and low numeracy levels by UA/DCA; and 714 data files (2 for each of England's 357 DCAs and UAs). The following items are discussed in the technical report: background information on the 17 studies; explanation of the process used to assess sample members' ability to perform 22 literacy tasks and 18 numeracy tasks; basic skills profile of the original sample; explanation of how the predictions for each DCA and UA were calculated; detailed description of the original study sample; and weighting procedure applied to the original sample. Files may be searched and printed. The Adobe Acrobat program required to view, search, and print the files is provided on the CD-ROM. (MN)

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